

November 21, 2012

# Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Correction's Director of Religious Services, Stephen Hall was the ceremonious keynote speaker at Westville Correctional Facility's Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) graduation. Forty-five offender graduates were honored with the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance." Refreshments, provided by the facility's Culinary Art Vocational Education, helped to create a relaxed, joyous atmosphere where offenders celebrated their accomplishments with staff and invited guests. The facility's PLUS program has an offender population of 252 offenders.

Fifteen residents from the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF), together with their spouses or longtime significant others, participated in a Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program (PREP) seminar. Facilitated by Indiana Family Institute (IFI) staff, the PREP seminar is a full-day workshop designed to teach IREF participants to build trust, find solutions, and develop positive and healthy communication skills. The group discussed how lengthy incarceration periods strained their marriages and relationships, and participated in exercises designed to reintroduce them to each other, help bridge the gap and build family support after their release from prison. The couples were treated to breakfast, lunch, and a complimentary picture of the couples taken on facility grounds. IREF residents are required to complete a variety of courses through the Religious Services Department in order to participate in PREP.

The quarterly PIO Roundtable Meeting was held at the Plainfield Correctional Facility. All attending were treated to a special pre-Thanksgiving meal prepared by the Department of Labor Inmate-to-Workmate offenders as part of their culinary training. They were supervised and instructed by Professional Chef Emily Slavens, daughter of Plainfield's Phil Slavens, in the preparation of the special meal. (see photo of Emily Slavens and offenders right)



Sixteen offenders at the Edinburgh Correctional Facility graduated from a Nurturing Father's parenting skills development program, with an additional 15 offenders graduating from the Reformatory, Residential, Re-Entry Program (RRRP). It was an exciting day for the offenders to have their children and close family members present when their names were called to walk across the center isle to be recognized for their success. The Nurturing Father's program is administered by volunteer facilitators and social workers from The Villages in association with Prevent Child Abuse Indiana. RRRP is a six month program based on core values to use as helpful tools upon release, such as the Walking the Line component which was facilitated by Joe Huff from the Department of Marriage and Family Services and coordinated by the Edinburgh's Facility Programs Department. The event was organized by Program Coordinator Carrie Thorman.

The Correctional Industrial Facility's Employee Appreciation Committee held a breakfast fundraiser for staff on all brackets. The menu included delicious breakfast burritos and biscuits with sausage and gravy. The sale was a huge success and items sold out on both days. The committee raised more than \$230 to be used for employee appreciation activities during the year.

Bethel College Men's Basketball Team played the Offender Basketball Team at the Indiana State Prison (ISP). The game was fast paced and high scoring. ISP got off to a slow start falling behind early, but soon got "hot" shooting as the game moved on taking a 68-39 lead into half-time. Bethel came out after the intermission shooting "lights out" cutting the lead to 12 points, but ISP improved their defense and cruised to a 130-90 victory. The game was enjoyed by both Bethel players and the ISP offender population. A photo-journalist came and took pictures and interviewed the ISP players for a documentary he is doing on Indiana Basketball.

Indiana Women's Prison Superintendent Steve McCauley extends his congratulations to Warren Maxey on his promotion to Captain and Officers Renee Jakes and Sharon Parks on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Reception-Diagnostic Center Superintendent Jim Wynn is pleased to announce the recent promotions of Adam Glaze and Jason Fedeler to Correctional Sergeant. Congratulations!

The Putnamville Correctional Facility donated \$2,000 from its Community Fund to charitable organizations. Assistant Superintendent Tim Phegley presented the checks for \$750 each to the Putnam and Clay County Food Pantries. Superintendent Stanley Knight also approved a \$500 donation to the American Red Cross in support of Hurricane Sandy victims.

Offender organizations at the Indiana State Prison purchased 101 turkeys from a local grocery store. The turkeys which weighed 1,000 pounds were delivered to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving Dinner for the community.

Case Manager Karumathil Kumaran and 308 PLUS offenders sponsored a Churches chicken sale for the offender population at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Over 1,015 boxes of chicken were sold generating \$2,030.00 that will be used for program supplies and charitable donations.